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THE SPOILS SYSTEM.

Tucked away in the very tail of things, and crowded to an obscure corner of the daily papers, is one of the most important portions of President Taft's message transmitted to congress yesterday. It is the recommendation "that all local officers throughout the country, including collectors of internal revenue, collectors of customs, postmasters of all four classes, immigration commissioners and marshals, should be by law covered into the classified service, the necessity for confirmation by the senate be removed, and the president and others whose time is now taken up in distributing this patronage.....should be relieved of this burden."

Bolled down, the recommendation, is that the entire spoils system be abolished.

To that arch-Democrat, Andrew Jackson, the adored of William Jennings Bryan, we are indebted for fastening upon the country a system which all honest men deplore, but which no man has yet been found brave enough to combat successfully. No good reason can be given why an efficient postmaster, collector or marshal should be removed from office merely because of a change of administration in the office of president of the United States. A thousand good reasons can be given why such changes should not be made. But with the inspiring slogan "to the victors belong the spoils," an echo of which is heard today in the cry "bring the government closer to the people," Jackson proceeded with the utmost deliberation to discharge from office every man, regardless of any question of fitness, who disagreed with him politically or who had voted against him.

Thus began the spoils system. Like the cigarette habit, it was admittedly pernicious but very indolgent and difficult to shake off. There were many to deplore its existence, but none strong enough to wage effective war against it. Grover Cleveland was the first to make open war upon it, when, in his first administration he proclaimed himself for civil service reform—and Grover Cleveland was defeated for reelection on his pains. But even Mr. Cleveland did not care to go to the length that Mr. Taft has done. This civil service reform for which Cleveland fought affected only the minor officials of the government. To have advocated extending its operation to first-class postmasters and collectors of internal revenue would in that day have been considered nothing less than political madness.

Of course, Mr. Taft's recommendation will come to nothing at the present time. He has a Democratic congress on his hands—a congress which owes undying allegiance to the principles of Andrew Jackson and which, furthermore, is more intent on "putting Taft in a hole" than it is upon performing any real service to the country. Possibly the realization of that fact accounts for the fact that the subject was mentioned only at the end of the message and almost in a parenthetical manner. But as surely as night follows day, that little tail-end recommendation will sooner or later become the recognized policy of the United States government, and we will all wonder how we could have been fools enough not to have followed it all the while.

THOSE RESOLUTIONS.

By way of keeping fully in touch with the holiday spirit, it might be a good thing to look ahead a trifle and select a choice array of good resolutions for New Year's day.

And right in the front rank of all good resolutions ought to be a firm resolve to pay your bills.

It is true about nine cases out of ten that the man who pays his bills and lives within his income—two things very nearly synonymous—is a pretty good sort of a citizen and will serve to decorate most any community.

And it is likewise true that the man who does not pay his bills is not likely to be much of a citizen, since he is living off the balance of the community, the same as the hole.

Misfortune, illness and lack of employment, at times make it impossible for men to pay their bills promptly, but the man who is accustomed to paying his bills is not likely to be long in want since he has both credit and the high regard of his friends.

However, there are several other classes of people who do not pay their bills and who have no reasonable excuse for failing to do so. There are

some people who believe in "keeping up appearances" to the extent of remaining always in debt and leading a hand-to-mouth life that is ruinous. There are others who have no more intention of paying a debt when they incur it than they have of giving honest work to their employer when they have a job.

And there is another class—the professional deadbeat—who puts in most of his time figuring out how he can best the game and for just how little he can settle what he really owes.

But with the great mass of people who are in debt the failure to pay up is more or less due to carelessness and a lack of understanding of their obligations to the community.

If you are in debt, put the "pay up" resolution at the head of the list.

If the farmer who brought suit against Mayor Shanks for the price of a carload of municipal potatoes is to be believed, the secret of the Indianapolis method of reducing the cost of living is to refuse to pay for what you get.

An exchange tells of an affray in which one of the combatants received a wound with a knife that required three stitches to close. Now if the stitches will only serve to keep the knife closed, all will be well.

A New York suffragette leader advises the sisters to practice throwing stones for an offensive campaign, which moves the Houston Post to observe that there are dark days ahead for the innocent bystanders.

It was to be expected, of course, that the organ would rush to the defense of the bureau. Both seem to have been affected by the slashing reductions incident to the Christmas season.

It has been solemnly adjudicated that the Gaekwar of Baroda can not be made co-responsible in a divorce suit. There ought to be some compensation to a man for having to carry around that title.

After reading the opening statement of counsel for the Chicago packers, we wonder how we managed to get along without the meat trust as long as we did.

Governor Harmon stated yesterday that his candidacy for president is in the hands of his friends. Nothing personal to Mr. Bryan was intended by this remark.

Prosecutor Baker is the only lawyer we ever knew to plead insanity as a defense to a charge of contempt of court.

We are almost encouraged to indulge the hope that we will have that street paving by next Christmas, anyhow.

We would remind President Taft that the only "redemption" that the Republican party needs is to get rid of a few of its bad actors.

To move, the fact that some of the government records will not last as long as a hundred years will be regarded as anything but a calamity.

The fact that they are having bribery scandals in Virginia again reminds us that election crookedness is not a matter of geography.

If China should decide to establish a republic, just think what a job there will be for the canvassing board.

Of course, it is impossible to shop early now, but you can begin saving up for your early shopping next year.

POLITICS AND POLITICIANS.

(Howard L. Rann in San Bernardino Index.)

The city council is a collection of self-sufficing citizens, whose chief ambition is to save the street in front of somebody else's house. It is harder to serve on the council of a secluded village than it is to eat spaghetti with a knife. The man who can survive two terms on the council without losing his hair and all faith in mankind could manage an ice cream parlor in the Klondike with perfect success. The only salary attached to the aldermanic office is a consciousness of duty well done and a swift and unanimous kick from the body politic at the next city election, and the man who emerges from the ordeal with firm teeth and a reputation that will stand a church trial will never have to edge into the bank after 4 p. m. to ask for an extension of his notes. As a rule, being a councilman is a dreary occupation, but it is brightened by cheerful memories, such as saddling a fat sewer assessment upon an unsuspecting neighbor or remitting the taxes of a retired farmer who is related to the mayor by marriage. The tax dodger has no show with the average council unless he controls the vote of the first ward, and in that event his visible assets will be found to consist of a safety bicycle and a pair of detachable cuffs. The modern city council was framed after the Roman senate, but the man who did the framing was a cross-eyed carpenter with a grudge against society.

For the best saddle horses in the city call phone No. 2, V. L. Trimble, 112 North second street.

A HALF A MILLION TREES AWAITING SANTA CLAUSE

That Number Will Be Required for Christmas in New York Alone; The "Shooting Show Girls" in Vaudeville.

New York, Dec. 22.—Estimates made by dealers place the number of Christmas trees demanded for the holiday season in the metropolis at half a million. People will pay \$250,000 for them, or an average of 50 cents a tree. West street, where the steamers from New England dock, smells like a balsam forest.

"There appears to be no falling off in the demand for trees," said a dealer who handles thirty or forty thousand of them here every winter.

Coney Island had thirty thousand or so visitors yesterday. There were two attractions to bring them to the island, one the winter bathers at the Parkway baths at Brighton beach and the other the effects of the Luna Park fire of last Monday. About fifty bathing enthusiasts were in the water.

The police are looking today for a party of midnight revelers who last night threw a young woman out of the window of a speeding taxicab into the street at the corner of Sixth avenue and Fifty-sixth street. She was unconscious when picked up by the police and hurried to Roosevelt hospital. A bystander told the police that he had seen her hurried from the car, which he said was without a number or any other means of identification.

"When the machine was opposite me the door was thrown open and the woman rushed out," he said. "She struck the pavement on her left side and rolled against the curb. Then a man in the car pulled the door shut."

The young woman was still unconscious today.

Lillian Graham and Ethel Conrad, having been acquitted by a jury of the charge of attempting to kill W. E. B. Stokes, will return to the stage as a means of livelihood. The girls, prior to their trial, appeared at Hammerstein's roof garden, and tonight at the Victoria theater they will be seen with the regular Hammerstein bill. They will offer a singing specialty.

The condition of Mr. Stokes still remains critical, but was described last night as being slightly improved. The chief fear of the physicians now is further developments resulting from the auto-intoxication which the patient is suffering. Mr. Stokes is very weak.

When President Taft enters the Seventy-first regiment armory January 27 to attend the annual ball for the benefit of the home of the Daughters of Jacob a sprightly little woman of 105 summers, clad in a brand new silk dress, will ask him to dance. If he consents, Mrs. Rachel Marcus, who was gray before he was born, will have realized her chief ambition.

Mrs. Marcus celebrated her 105th birthday yesterday in the home which has sheltered her for years. In the course of the merrymaking she said she is physically able to dance with the president, as, judging from the pictures of the president, he was not likely to hit a fast pace.

Mrs. Marcus had made it known to scores of her friends that she would like to wear a silk dress should she ever meet the president, and she was thrilled with anticipation when she found beside her bed yesterday morning a postcard box bearing the imprint of a model who doesn't every week design something appropriate for ladies of 105. With trembling fingers Mrs. Marcus opened the box and drew forth a rustling, wonderful gown of silk.

Wolf Joseph, who is only 95 and therefore not rated as one of the inner circle in the home; Susan Goldman, 104; Baruch Weber, 93, and others gathered in the dining hall were astonished when Mrs. Marcus appeared in all the glory of her new finery.

RAGGED LITTLE BOY WON BY HONEST WORK

"The Santa Fe railway had an accident to appoint the other day to succeed a man who had just died, and W. W. Strickland was given the place," says the Osborne Farmer.

"To the average reader this is merely a news item, but it is quite a story to us for we were raised in the same town and attended the same school and were in the same classes with Will Strickland. Has Strickland to his present position by mere luck? We can remember when he was a barefoot and ragged boy on the streets of Penobscot, for we were barefoot and ragged with him. We can recall the time when a silent procession wound its way northeast and he was left alone in the world—father and mother both gone. He listened to the howl of the wolf out in the road—the same wolf that kept us awake. He went to work in the Santa Fe depot at the very lowest position. He was steady, industrious and used his brains. He was promoted and he made good on every round of the ladder he climbed. He had no boosters and didn't carry a sackful of horsehock about with him to bring luck. His booster was his industry and honesty, and his good luck shined his clean hands and clear head. But Old Bill Shiftless stands back there in the old rut and says: 'He was lucky, that's all, nothing to it. The lucky boys, the ones who had golden spoons in their mouths in those old days, have long since fallen by the wayside. Luck is the idle dream of the shiftless and lazy—Utopian where far in the distance, to reach which requires the rays from Aladdin's lamp to light the way. Real luck is merely industry, honesty and decency. You can see it shining like star lights around you every day.'"

FEW REPUBLICANS IN LEGISLATURE OF ARIZONA

Early Indications, It Is Said, Point to Democratic Majority of Forty; All Returns Not in Yet.

Tucson, Ariz., Dec. 22.—Although the complete returns are not in, it appears that the representations from the various counties as to parties will be divided as follows:

Apache county, one Republican senator (probable), and one Republican representative. No Democrats.

Cochise county, two Democratic senators and seven Democratic representatives. No Republicans.

Cocconino county, one Democratic senator, one Democratic representative. Not certain.

Gila, two Democratic senators, three Democratic representatives. No Republicans.

Graham, one Democratic senator, two Democratic representatives. No Republicans.

Greenlee, one Democratic senator, two Democratic representatives. No Republicans.

Maricopa, two Democratic senators, six Democratic representatives. No Republicans.

Mohave, one Democratic senator, one Democratic representative. No Republicans.

Navajo has one representative and one senator. Result not certain.

Pima, two Democratic senators, one Democratic representative and two Republican representatives.

Pinal, one Democratic senator and one Democratic representative. No Republicans.

Santa Cruz, one Democratic senator and one Democratic representative.

Yavapai, two Democratic senators, three Democratic representatives and one Republican representative.

Yuma, one Democratic senator and two Democratic representatives. No Republicans.

From the above it can readily be seen that the Democrats positively have sixteen members of the upper house while the Republicans have but one, Cochise and Navajo, with one senator each, are placed in the doubtful column.

In the lower house the Democrats have elected twenty-nine members and the Republicans but four, while Cochise and Navajo with one representative each are placed as doubtful.

Thus it will be seen, eliminating Navajo and the doubtful ones, that on joint ballot for the election of senators, the Democrats will have forty-five votes and the Republicans but five, the Democrats having a clear majority of forty votes.

HORSE THROWS LAD. PARALYZING LIMBS

Quetta, N. M., Dec. 21.—Advices have reached Quetta stating that the son of Agapito Gonzales of Pino was thrown from a horse and his back broken just above the hips. He now lies in a paralyzed state, unable to move any part of the body. There is no pain and the sense of feeling is entirely gone. There is little danger of death and no hope for the young man ever to be more than a bedridden invalid, unable to even feel himself. The sympathy of the entire community goes out to the unfortunate lad and his grieving parents.

AMERICAN CAVALRY HORSE

(Birmingham Age Herald)

The humiliation which the officers of the United States army suffered at the National Horse show at Madison Square garden a little more than a year ago, when they saw every ribbon in the charger classes easily won by officers from foreign countries, has been productive in high degree of a result of that stunning defeat nearly every prize offered in similar classes this year was won by an American officer, astride an American mount.

This was brought about by the energy of a few private individuals and the co-operation of officers in the United States army and officials of the war department at Washington. The American horses had been given the gate at the time of their honorable defeat when August Belmont presented the government with his famous stallions, Henry of Navarre and Octagon with a view to bettering the order of things at the next horse show.

The army officers who judged at the show and were forced to send the animals ridden by their fellow officers down to defeat before the braided and gilded officers from beyond the sea, because of their manifest inferiority, at once started a movement to improve the American cavalry horse. In this they had the hearty co-operation of the secretary of war.

Not long afterward a group of men headed by Judge William H. Moore of New York raised a subscription fund to purchase mounts to be sent to the International Horse show held in London last June. A large sum of money was raised and a large sum paid for the best hunters, jumpers and chasers which New York state, Virginia and Kentucky could furnish. Among these animals were the famous Kaikiki of Elway, Chiswell and Tangle, besides a number of horses of lesser fame.

As soon as they were delivered to the government they were turned over to the keeping of well-known stock breeders in Virginia, who bred them to the best mares in the state. This was done under the joint supervision of the department of agriculture and the war department.

About a month before the Olympia show in London, the first annual National Capital Horse show was held in Washington. The government animals were entered in the charger and

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At the Close of Business, December 5th, 1911.

RESOURCES

Loans and Discounts	\$1,811,474.07
Bonds, Securities, Etc.	36,042.61
Banking House and Furniture	42,000.00
United States Bonds	340,000.00
Cash and Exchange	1,109,550.46
Total	1,449,550.46
	\$3,339,067.14

LIABILITIES

Capital	\$ 200,000.00
Surplus and Profits	51,432.20
Circulation	200,000.00
Deposits	2,887,634.94
Total	\$3,339,067.14

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THREE NEW PICTURES

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jumping classes at the National Capital show and did well. In a number of classes they were defeated by the horses of private owners, notably those of the Hohenheim stables of Biltmore owned by Walter A. Bell, but on the whole their showing was creditable.

The earliest evidence of the revived interest in the cavalry horse was manifest when the first national Military Horse show was held at Fort Myer, Va., in March, 1911. This show was organized chiefly by the officers of Fort Myer, but President Taft and Secretary of War Dickenson evidenced a keen interest in it.

It was attended by all the army officers in Washington, besides practically the entire diplomatic corps and members of congress interested in the cavalry horse improvement. The class of animals shown was poor, but the great amount of interest was considered encouraging.

When the time for the National Capital Horse show came around the universal interest in the development of the army horse had reached such a point that the executive committee of the show was headed by Maj. Henry T. Allen, one of the recognized authorities on the subject in the service.

and its membership was made up of the most prominent horsemen of Virginia.

The board of directors of the show was composed of the foremost men of the nation. The secretary of war, the secretary of the navy, the attorney general, United States Senators Wetmore of Rhode Island and Bailey of Texas; Henry Fairfax, Fourth Assistant Postmaster General McGraw and many other prominent men served upon it, while President Taft was the patron of the show.

While the show was still in progress Judge Moore, who acted as one of the judges in the ring, purchased Roubatou, a famous high jumper, owned by Louis Leith of Virginia, an animal of the same strain as Heatherbloome, which held the high jump record for many years. Immediately upon purchasing Roubatou, Judge Moore presented it to the United States to further the development of the cavalry horse.

At all the shows of the Virginia circuit last summer, special classes were placed on the programs for charges, and after the return of the government animals from London, where they did well considering the rigids they showed against, they were entered in several of the shows, winning consistently.

The movement for the improvement of the American cavalry horse has resulted in the permanent establishment of two important horse shows. The Military Horse show at Fort Myer and the National Capital Horse show at Washington. Both bid fair to become international events.

At the last session of the sixty-first congress an effort was made to have a special bill introduced, providing an appropriation for developing the cavalry horse. The effort failed, being postponed until the press of more important business crowded it out.

A bill probably will be introduced and passed at the coming session of congress which will make ample provision for the purpose. Whether this work will be placed under the supervision of the department of agriculture or the war department is at present uncertain.

It is reluctantly conceded by the United States army officers that this country ranks near the bottom as far as its cavalry is concerned. This is not due so much to the fact that the country is without resources for the organization of a well equipped cavalry, but rather because available resources have been badly neglected.

There are in the country many millions of excellent breeding stock, the use of which would insure to the government a superior cavalry. It is the desire of the army officers behind the present movement to secure these animals. The most of them are owned by private individuals and are bred at high prices, but an efficient stud is rapidly being accumulated.

Very different results from those shown last year are expected at the second Military Horse show, to be held early in the spring at Fort Myer. The attention of the entire military of the nation will be focused on the show.

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